

**EFFICIENT SYSTEM AND METHOD OF MONITORING NEIGHBORING  
CELLS IN A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

**ABSTRACT**

A portable communication device (150) can include a transceiver (74) and a processor (76) coupled to the transceiver. The processor can be programmed to monitor at least one neighboring cell among a plurality of cells for a load condition on the at least one neighboring cell, monitor the at least one neighboring cell for a service capability and discontinue the monitoring of the at least one neighboring cell if a desired service capability fails to match the service capability of the at least one neighboring cell or if the load condition fails to meet a predetermined load condition. The processor can be further programmed to monitor the at least one neighboring cell for a signal quality indication and to discontinue the monitoring of the at least one neighboring cell if the signal quality indication falls below a predetermined threshold.